

Monthly Newsletter

AMERICAN LEGION POST 57

November 2024



Post Info

American Legion
Post 57

Address:

2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City FL 32025

Phone:

(386) 752-7776

Hours:

Mon to Sun
1:00pm to 10:00pm

Email:

americanlegion57@comcast.net

Join us on Facebook:

American Legion Post 57 -
Lake City, FL

Post 57 Website:

www.americanlegion57.org



Kitchen News

Kitchen Hours

Sunday, Monday, Thursday
4:00pm to 8:15pm



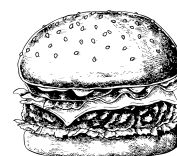
Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday
5:00pm to 8:00pm



Fridays are Legion Family Dinner Days
5:30pm to 7:30pm



Beginning October 1st, the kitchen will
be able to take Credit and Debit Cards
along with many other forms of
payment!



*Kitchen schedule subject to change
due to events and holidays.



Commanders Corner

Welcome to November to all.

Your post is off to an amazing start, kitchen is remodeled and is now open every night of the week, Sun, Mon and Thurs it's open from 4-8 for Bingo, Tues, Wed and Sat. It's now open from 5-8 for members to have dinner in the lounge or for carry out for the public. Full menu is available on all nights. Friday, as always is the Family dinners served from 5:30 til 7:30 pm for dine in or carry out.

October was a busy month, first we welcomed our First Responders to our house for a First Responder's luncheon where we fed over 125 First Responders.

On October, the Legion Family participated in a Purple Heart ceremony where Columbia, Suwannee and Hamilton Counties as well as the local municipalities received their Purple Heart plaques.

On Thursday, Oct. 31st the Legion Family held our annual "Kidsafe Halloween party for the youth of our community.

Special Thank you to Past Post Commander Rick Cabrera, Joey Carroll, Tom Johnson, Sharon Huggins, Caitlin Hanechak, Tiffany Louks, for working diligently to set up the Haunted House and to all the Volunteers who showed up on the day of the event to make it a resounding success.

To all the Volunteers (too numerous to name) who helped with unloading, sorting and handling the hurricane supplies, pulling down the Halloween decorations, thank you as well. Our post is coming together as a team and it's fantastic to see our progress.

As a large portion of the supplies arrived too late for the victims of these devastating storms, items were donated to Renewed, the Robert Jenkins Veteran's Domiciliary, the Humane Society (Pet food), the Pregnancy Shelter and a local food bank among others. This is YOUR American Legion giving back to our community.

Upcoming Events:

Every Sun, Mon and Thursday: Bingo in the Hall 3:00pm afternoon and 6:45 for night Bingo

Evert Monday and Friday: Texas Hold-em 7pm in the Family Meeting Room

Saturdays: Queen of Hearts in the lounge at 6:00pm

Friday: Nov 1st Legion Dinner Entertainment by Vintage Trio

Friday Nov 1 Haunted House take down (volunteers needed)

Tuesday Nov 5 SAL meeting 6:30pm

Friday Nov 8 Rider's Dinner 5:30-7:30 Karaoke beginning at 6:30

Saturday Nov 9 Rider's Toys for Tots Toy Ride (Harvey's start/Legion finish)

Monday Nov 11 Veteran's Day 9:30-3:00 pm Evening Bingo 6:45

Commanders Corner (Cont.)

Tuesday Nov 12 Legion/Auxiliary Executive Board Meetings

Friday Nov 15 Veteran's Coffee Corner (Grand Cypress) 10:00am

Friday Nov 15 Sea Cadet Dinner 5:30-7:30 pm

Tuesday Nov 19 Legion/Auxiliary General Meeting

Thurs-Sun Nov 21-24 Fall Conference

Friday Nov 22 SAL Dinner 5:30-7:30pm

Tuesday Nov 26 Rider's Meeting 6:30pm

Thursday Nov 28 Member's Traditional Thanksgiving Dinner

Friday Nov 29 No Friday Dinner

Saturday Nov 30 Decorate Post for Christmas (10:00 am (volunteers needed))

The Board discussed and agreed to host a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day. This dinner is open to all members and is geared to our members who are either alone or lack family support and is by donation.

The menu planned is Ham or Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, collard greens, candied yams, dressing, cranberry sauce, green beans, deviled eggs and various desserts.

Dinner will be served from 3-5pm.

If you can help prepare one or more of the above items, please let me know.

Please sign up by Friday, Nov 22 if you plan to attend, either online or on the signup on the bulletin board for planning purposes.

For informational purposes, Chaplain Haynes has resigned from the Board for Health reasons. I have appointed William Bell as Chaplain to be confirmed at the November General meeting. This opens a position on the executive committee. Contact either Jason (Adjutant), Kelly (First Vice) or myself for nominations for the position. Election for that position will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 19th at the General Meeting.

Please, mark your Calendars in advance, Wreaths Across America will take place on Saturday, December 14th in the park in front of the Court House. Ceremonies begin at 11:59 am. Details will follow.

As always, I appreciate your continued support.
Bill

Volunteer Spotlight

VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS

--Lee Newsome--

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU AND ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS DO!





County Service Officer

Dear Members of Post 57,

As your Columbia County Veteran Service Officer, I want to provide you with important updates on veterans benefits and disaster assistance, especially in light of the recent hurricanes affecting our area.

Veteran Benefits News

- 1. Increased VA Benefits Funding:** Congress has addressed a \$3 billion shortfall in the VA budget, ensuring that veterans will continue to receive their disability, pension, and other crucial benefits without delay
- 2. Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA):** Starting next year, veterans will see a 2.5% increase in their benefits due to the annual COLA adjustment, helping to keep up with inflation

Hurricane Relief for Veterans

If you or someone you know has been impacted by recent hurricanes or other natural disasters, the following resources are available to help:

- 1. VA Disaster Relief:** The VA has mobile medical units and other resources deployed to support veterans during natural disasters. They offer health care services, prescription refills, and housing assistance through programs such as the Specially Adapted Housing (SAH) program. Veterans who previously received home modifications through the SAH program may be eligible for additional funding if their homes were damaged in a disaster
- 2. Financial Aid from Nonprofits:** Organizations such as Disabled American Veterans (DAV) provide emergency financial assistance and disaster relief kits to veterans and their families, including essential items like hygiene products, food, and blankets.

Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) also has a disaster relief support fund to assist those in need.



County Service Officer (Cont.)

Services I Can Provide

As your Veteran Service Officer, I can assist with:

- **Filing VA compensation claims** and appeals
- **Reviewing VA disability ratings** to ensure you are receiving the correct benefits
- **Guiding you through the VA home loan process**
- **Connecting you with VA healthcare services**
- **Assisting with claims for service connection due to injury or illness**
- **Navigating survivor benefits** for families of veterans
- **Accessing local, state, and federal veteran programs**

If you are unsure about your eligibility for any of these services or benefits, please don't hesitate to contact me. I am here to support you.

Contact Information:

Ronnie Beasley
Columbia County Veteran Service Officer
Email: rbeasley@columbiacountyfla.com
Phone: 386-758-3350
Address: 1486 SW McFarlane Ave, Lake City, FL 32025

Stay safe, and please reach out if I can assist you with any VA-related concerns.

Best regards,

Ronnie Beasley
Columbia County Veteran Service Officer

Chaplain

With Chaplain Mel stepping down, I'd like to keep him and his wife, Betsy, in our prayers that God will watch over them and keep them in good health. I want to thank Mel for his service to Post 57 and for mentoring me to be a Chaplain. With the elections quickly approaching, I ask that we pray for our country and political leaders that God will install the right people to do his will.

James 4:14 Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Let us remember the important things in life, as we are only here for a short time. Let's make time to fellowship with one another during this holiday season. May God bless this great country and bless the great people of our Post 57 family.

William Bell

Chaplain

Membership



Happy Holiday Season Members!!!

One of my goals this year is to develop a listing of Veteran owned businesses in Lake City and surrounding areas. If you own a business, or know a Veteran who does, and would like your business to be listed on the American Legion Post 57 web page, for quick reference for our Legion members please email me at Post57membership@gmail.com

We have Exceeded our membership renewal/recruiting goal for October. The target was 55% and with your help we were able to obtain 59.70%! Team 57 is winning!

I would like to sincerely thank Bill Huggins, Tom Wilcutts, Mike and Alice Mckinsey, Jimbo Harrington, Lisa Brown, Rick and Laura Cabrera, Bill, Kathy, Brandon and Mason Bell, and David Holmes who showed up and helped at the Post 57 Family Membership table at Gateway Beer and Wine fest! We talked to many Veterans and the public to promote American Legion functions and fundraising efforts.

Our membership Goal for November 14 is 65% and we are well on our way to exceeding that goal as well! If you have the opportunity to renew before the December 31, 2024 deadline we would greatly appreciate the help!

Easy membership renewal can be accessed online at **Floridalegion.org** or **Legion.org**. Click the red **Renew** tab at the top of the page and have your member number ready. There is no log in and it is very quick and easy. You can also use your **mylegion.org** account to renew. **There is a new 3 year renewal option.** I receive a report daily, and will mail your 2025 membership card to you with a Post 57 window sticker within 2 days of the report. I mark the envelope "2025 Membership Card" at the bottom of the envelope. Please be on the lookout for it. If you don't receive your card within 14 days (mail from Lake City goes all the way to Jacksonville for sorting and comes back so there may be a delay) please email me at Post57membership@gmail.com You are welcome, as always, to renew at the Post. I am at the Post nearly everyday, so if I am here, I will process your membership and get you your card on the spot.

Many of you have requested key fobs, and many of you have not yet picked them up from the Lounge, (Canteen, Social Quarters) please come get your key fobs and check out all the new things happening in the kitchen and the Lounge!!! You wont regret it!

With almost 900 members it is very difficult for just a few people to reach out to all of you! If you are interested in assisting with "Buddy Check" we would really appreciate all the help we can get. This is a great opportunity for volunteering and can be accomplished at the Post on your schedule. If you are interested in volunteering please email me at Post57membership@gmail.com

For God and Country,

Kelly Valliere
First Vice Commander



Auxiliary News

It has been quite a hectic 2 months, with 2 hurricanes and all the cleanup associated with them. I hope all fared well. If there is anything you need, please contact us.

We had a very successful yard sale in September. We made more money overall than we have in past years. Thank you to all that came out to help.

First Responders lunch was a huge success too. We served over 125 for lunch and they were all thrilled with the food and the goodies we gave out. They also got a chance to win gift cards provided by the entire Legion Family.

We also got to take the lady veterans from the Domiciliary out to lunch to Gator's Dockside the day before Helene hit. They had so much fun and were very grateful. This really makes their day.

Oct. 23rd thru 26th our District hosted the Department President Charlotte Bass. We packed troop care packages at our post, took her on a tour of the domiciliary and Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch, she saw the destruction in Steinhatchee, and ended with a "Construction Party" in Old Town with an Italian dinner. She took lots of pictures and had such a wonderful time. Thank you to those that came out to meet her.

Our annual Kids Safe Halloween is coming up on Oct. 31st from 6-8 PM. This is open to the public. They will have chance to go thru the Haunted House and play lots of games in the bingo hall. Each kid will also eat free hot dogs, chips, fruit snacks, and juice box. Tell your friends and neighbors.

November is Fall Conference time. The dates are Nov. 22nd thru 24th , leaving on the 21st to go to Orlando. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Auxiliary. Classes are held on Friday and meetings on Saturday, with a worship service on Sunday. Anyone interested? I have 1 room left (double occupancy). Contact me.

We have 2 pinning ceremonies coming up – Nov. 7th at Solaris Nursing Home at 11 AM and Nov. 12th at Baya Pointe at 10 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend. Donna will be "pinning" the resident veterans with an American flag pin.

Don't forget to renew your membership for 2025. Dues are still \$45.00. We are shooting for the National Goal of 75% renewed by December 7th . Please help us make that happen. Dues can be paid online, in person with the bartender, or mail them to the post at 2602 SW Main Blvd., Lake City FL 32025.

For God and Country,

Lisa Dye – President – Unit 57



Sons of the American Legion

Hello S.A.L. Squadron 57 Members

Hope everyone stayed safe during the hurricanes!

We had no events the month of October due to the storms. I would like to thank everyone for your support for respecting the SONS decision to cancel Roadkill Bingo in October.

Upcoming Events:

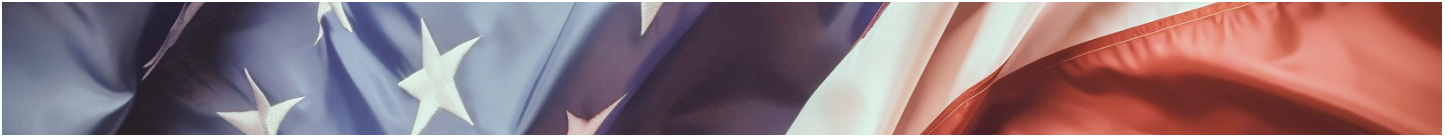
Saturday Nov. 2nd @ 3:00 to 5:00 Roadkill Bingo

Tuesday Nov. 5th @ 6:30pm Squadron 57 Meeting

Friday Nov. 22nd @ 5:30 to 7:30 Friday Night Dinner

Reminder- It's Time to Pay Your 2025 Dues!

S.A.L. Squadron Commander: Brian Wolfe



Post Service Officer

Hello 57,

Hello everyone, it has been an eventful month! Hurricanes to name one. **WE**, Post 57 have helped 20+ Veterans, with tree removals, yard and lawn clean up, replaced food due to power outages, paid a Veteran house payment, helped one Vet move and caught up a Veterans car payment.

I am often asked about the Ads on Facebook and other sites that advertise cheap Insurance for Veterans, so here is the answer.

Low cost insurance options for Vets, but there are also scams that target Veterans!
These are the ones that are legit:

VALife insurance:

This program offers competitive premium rates and cash value. Open enrollment begins Jan 1st for service connected vets 80 and under.

Car Insurance: driving history and other factors

Some Companies offer military discounts but rates vary by location, age, driving history and other factors. USAA and GEICO are often considered to offer the lowest rates to veterans. For all others follow this rule: If it seems too good to be true, then it probably is a SCAM.

*info obtained From VA.org

Thanks,

Lisa G. Brown
VSO, Post 57, Lake City Florida



Honor Guard

Honor Guard served military honors for Petty Officer Third Class David O'Mear on Saturday, 19 OCT, in Lake City. David was a Machinist Mate in the US Navy serving in the Vietnam War.

We had the privilege to participate in the Purple Heart Ceremony held on October 23 at our Post. We Presented the Colors and our team member William Bell had a speaking part.

Honor Guard members Terry Libbert and Laura Taylor will be serving on the Executive Board as 2nd and 4th Vice Presidents respectively. William Bell was appointed Post Chaplain as former Chaplain Hayes needed to resign to care for his sweet wife. William has been working with Chaplain Hayes for some time in preparing for this important role.

The team would like to wish Byron Cribbs, our long serving member, a happy 81st birthday coming up on 30 Oct! Byron has served on the Honor Guard since it's creation in 2014 and lives in Branford, FL.

Finally, we ask for your thoughts and prayers for Honor Guard member Eric Persons who severely broke his leg in mid- September. Due to complications of diabetes, his leg formed skin lesions that became seriously infected. He has undergone three surgeries and the option of amputating the foot to prevent septicemia is possible. Please pray his infection is brought under control and his leg heals properly. Eric and his wife live in Fort White and run a horse rescue farm.

We wish everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,
Your Honor Guard Team

November Canteen Specials

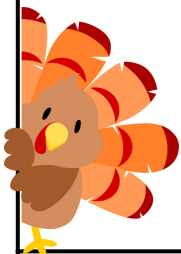
- **Monday** - Margarita - Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00
- **Tuesday** - Well - (All Day) \$2.00
- **Wednesday** - Wine - (All Day) \$2.50
- **Thursday** - Buckets - (All Day) \$12.00
- **Friday** - Top Shelf - (All Day) \$4.00
- **Saturday** - Tequila Sunrise - Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00
- **Sunday** - Bloody Mary - Well \$2.00 and Top Shelf \$4.00
- **All Month** - Mimosa - (All Day) \$3.00





November



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Red Shirt Friday Haunted House Take Down Legion Dinner 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Vintage Trio Band 6:30 PM Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	2 S.A.L Roadkill Bingo 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM
3 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	4 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	5 S.A.L. Squadron 57 Meeting 6:30 PM	6 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM 	7 Auxiliary Pinning Ceremony at Solaris 11:00 AM Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	8 Red Shirt Friday Riders Dinner 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Karaoke 6:30 PM Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	9 Toys for Tots Toy Run 9:00 AM 
10 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm 	11 Veterans Day Celebration 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM Bingo 6:45 PM Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	12 Auxiliary Pinning Ceremony at Baya Point 10:00 AM Legion & Auxiliary Executive Meeting 6:30 PM	13 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00 PM	14 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	15 Red Shirt Friday Veterans Coffee Corner at Grand Cypress 10:00 AM Sea Cadets Dinner 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	16 Poker Run
17 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	18 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7pm	19 General Membership Meeting 6:30 PM	20 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Honor Guard Meeting 3:00 PM	21 Fall Conference Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	22 Fall Conference Red Shirt Friday S.A.L. Dinner 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	23 Fall Conference
24 Fall Conference Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm	25 Bingo 3pm & 6:45pm Texas Hold'em 7pm	26 Riders Meeting 6:30 PM	27 \$1.75 Draft 1:00 PM Auxiliary Bingo (Domiciliary) 6:00 PM	28  Thanksgiving Thanksgiving Dinner 3:00 PM Bingo 6:45 PM	29 Red Shirt Friday No Dinner 5:30 PM Texas Hold'em 7:00 PM	30 Decorate for Christmas 8:00 AM